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This Fearful War

TO THE emperors, kings and lesser princes and lords of Europe and Great Britain these should be anxious days, not only in trying to forecast the end of the war, but as to what may happen them. The war between France and Germany cost Napoleon III his crown. From being sovereign of a great and gallant nation he, in a brief one hundred days became first a prisoner and then a fugitive. Then his countrymen determined that never again would they be subject to a single man's call to war; never again would they subordinate their sovereignty and their right to rule themselves.

What will happen when the dead of the present war shall be counted, the drain of their manhood considered, the awful material losses computed?

Every day the thrones in those lands are more and more endangered, for every day the thought is more and more crystalizing that the war was unnecessary; that there was no difficulty that it might not have been settled without making Europe one great Golgotha.

One thing we are sure will follow. Nations will no longer trust to peace agreements or the plighted faith of each other. The thought will dominate that only laws backed by sufficient penalties will meet future demands.

Alliances between nations will be forbidden. A code will be prepared placing a limitation upon ambitions of rulers and all other nations will be bound to interpose in case there is an attempted violation, while all nations will educate their people as they please, there will be a mighty reduction of fleets and armies. And each nation will not only be obliged to deal justly with neighboring nations, but with their own people and with every race that may seek shelter under its flag.

There will be no more wars of conquest; no more wars where the acquisition of territory will be the real object.

There will be perfect religious liberty guaranteed, but there will be no interference with the state on the part of any creed.

The people will in truth make the laws, but the combined nations will be a check on any single nation that falls in its duties or seeks advantages unjust to other states.

Some people fear that because this war civilization is going into eclipse. It will not. It may go down close to the valley of the shadow of death, but it will arise with new glories and vastly increased power.

We cannot see why this war was permitted, but when enough blood and tears shall have been shed, men will discern the design behind it all and the purpose that was fulfilled.

As To Contraband Goods

THE declaration of foreign powers now engaged in war that copper is a contraband of war and should not be carried between neutral countries, seems to us altogether untenable. As well call flour and bacon contraband. Most modern nations use a good deal of copper, but all nations use flour and bacon. Most copper is used in the industries of peace and we can see no reason why a cargo of copper shipped from an American port to say Spain or Norway, should be held as contraband by Great Britain or France. The danger that it will be sent from its port of destination to some country with which France and England may be at war, should be no concernment of ours.

But there is another principle involved. Why should American ships, under the American flag, be restricted in their legitimate work? Is there a purpose behind all not to permit the United States to become a formidable competitor in ocean trade when this war is over? That has been the purpose of all those powers for forty years past, and they have been backed by a great political party and a powerful subsidized press in our country, much to our nation's loss and shame.

Are those same influences still at work? It looks that way surely. The war has been raging furiously for a hundred days, the opportunity it offers our country to restore its shipping has been most apparent all the time, but is there one more hammer ringing in any American ship yard, one more miner because of it at work in any coal or iron mine; has one more furnace been blown in to make steel?

Has one new American flag appeared on the seas?

For The President To Think Over

IN CONSIDERING the election returns we hope that President Wilson will linger a moment over the fact that possibly the wound he gave to American coast shipping may have been a factor. He appealed to his obedient congress to lay tolls upon American coast shipping as due to the honor of our country. His real reason, the one he gave to the reporters, was that if the coast shipping was made exempt, inasmuch as they received thereby the amount was indirect subsidy, which is repugnant to American Democratic statesmanship.

Now, the average American intellect may be dull, but it could never figure out what especial interest any foreign power had in the regulation of American commerce between American ports in connection with an American canal in the profit or loss of that canal.

Further, as to the indirect subsidy, most Americans know that the right of American ships to the commerce between American ports, the exclusive right was guaranteed them something like a century ago, and it is due to that right that we have any merchant marine at all.

Hence they will not believe that our government deliberately aimed a blow at that trade through a solemn treaty with an outside power.

Again, they are not too dull to see that if the president's reasoning, about their receiving an indirect subsidy holds good, the next step will natur-

ally be to demand the repeal of the ancient law which gives to our ships exclusively the ocean trade between American ports, for is not keeping away competing ships in that trade as much an indirect subsidy as it is to pass them through the canal free?

Most Americans are anxious to at least keep what shipping we now possess.

The Needed Thing

OUR war and navy secretaries are preparing to ask for larger appropriations to make more effective both branches of the service. Congress should respond generously, for the war in Europe cannot last long and more than one power will emerge from it in an aggressive mood and disposed to be dictatorial.

Several small foreign states believe that because of our unpreparedness, the United States could easily be invaded and her coasts placed under tribute. Why not stop all that foolishness?

Why not decree that all young men physically able shall spend at least one year of their education in military camps? If congress would pass a law giving to any state which will pass such a law the officers to train the students and pay half the expense, every state would respond, and were the experiment tried for two years the country would not do without those schools, and the world outside would understand at a glance what would come were our country to be attacked.

Even without any war being anticipated, it would be the best possible feature of the education of American young men. A young man who was a marvel of scholarship in Yale, committed suicide in Chicago last week because he could get nothing to do.

He lacked initiative and trusted to what he had gotten out of books. One year in a military camp would have given him the needed assurance. It would have driven away any false pride that he may have possessed and substituted the honest pride of manhood, which would have found him a place to work. Let us begin to be self-protecting.

The Notices Being Served On Us

EUROPE is supplying the United States with grave lessons every day, or perhaps we should say is serving notices upon the United States every day. The first is to so change things as to be able to put forth in the most effective way our strength, if called upon. Another is to be able to supply ourselves with everything needed in case a supreme test should be put upon us.

This means first the training of the people in the elementary lessons of war. Not to build up a vast standing army to grow into the curse of militarism, but to devote a year of the education of youth to learning the use of weapons, to obtain glimpses of what when perfected makes an army; to a knowledge of camp life and its essentials—to equip the young for service in peace and in war.

In manufactures a study of what we buy largely of and whether such things cannot be created at home. Our country is almost as large as Europe and with Canada added vastly larger, and